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*Attorneys for Claimants First 100, LLC,
1st One Hundred Holdings, LLC, and
Battle Born Investments Company, LLC*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

Approximately 69,370 Bitcoin (BTC),
Bitcoin Gold (BTG), Bitcoin SV (BSV), and
Bitcoin Cash (BCH) seized from
1HQ3Go3ggs8pFnXuHVHRytPCq5fGG8Hb
hx,

Defendant.

Battle Born Investments Company, LLC,

Claimant.

Case No. 20-7811-RS

**VERIFIED ANSWER BY BATTLE BORN
INVESTMENTS COMPANY, LLC**

Judge: Hon. Richard Seeborg
Courtroom: 3
Case Filed: November 5, 2020
FAC Filed: November 20, 2020
Trial Date: TBD

1
2 Claimant Battle Born Investments Company, LLC having duly filed its claim of interests
3 in the above-captioned lawsuit on March 16, 2021, by and through its undersigned counsel,
4 hereby files its Verified Answer as follows:

5 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

6 1. Claimant asserts that the allegations in Paragraph No. 1 of the Plaintiff's amended
7 complaint describe the statutory bases to bring this civil action. Those are legal conclusions to
8 which no responses are required. To the extent that an answer is required, Claimant lacks
9 sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph No. 1 and on that basis, the
10 Claimant denies them.

11 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

12 2. The Claimant asserts that the allegations in Paragraph No. 2 of the Plaintiff's
13 amended complaint are legal conclusions to which no responses are required. To the extent that
14 an answer is required, the Claimant avers that it lacks sufficient information and belief to admit
15 or deny and therefore deny the allegations of Paragraph No. 2.

16 3. The Claimant asserts that the allegations in Paragraph No. 3 of the Plaintiff's
17 amended complaint are legal conclusions to which no responses are required. To the extent that
18 an answer is required, the Claimant avers that it lacks sufficient information and belief to admit
19 or deny and therefore deny the allegations of Paragraph No. 3.

20 4. The Claimant asserts that the allegation in Paragraph No. 4 of the Plaintiff's
21 amended complaint are legal conclusions to which no response is required. To the extent that an
22 answer is required, the Claimant avers that it lacks sufficient information and belief to admit or
23 deny and therefore deny the allegations of Paragraph No. 4.

24 **PARTIES**

25 5. The Claimant admits the allegations in paragraph No. 5 of the Plaintiff's amended
26 complaint.

6. With respect to the allegations in paragraph No. 6 of the Plaintiff's amended complaint, the Claimant admits that the Defendant Property identified in this action is comprised of the following:

- a) 69,370,22491543 Bitcoin (BTC);
- b) 69,370.10730857 Bitcoin Gold (BTG);
- c) 69,370,10710518 Bitcoin SV (BSV); and
- d) 69,3700.12818037 Bitcoin Cash (BCH)

all of which were contained in Bitcoin wallet/folder/account number IHQ3G03ggs8pFnXuHVHRytPCq5fGG8Hbhx. By way of further answer, although the Claimant admits that the Plaintiff seized the above-referenced Bitcoin, the Claimant lacks sufficient information or knowledge to know the date and circumstances under which the seizure was accomplished; and, therefore, can neither admit nor deny those elements of Paragraph No. 6. Collaterally, the Claimant asserts that the value for each cache of Bitcoin and/or cryptocurrency, referenced-above, continuously fluctuates, depending on market conditions; and that Claimant assert its unfettered ownership interests in the inconstant value of the Defendant Property to and through the date of final judgment by this Court.

FACTS

7. The Claimant asserts that Paragraph No. 7 of the Plaintiff's amended complaint comprises an historical narrative of the events leading up to the Government's seizure of the Defendant Property to which the Claimant was/is not privy. Therefore, the Claimant lacks sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph No. 7 and, on that basis, the Claimant denies them.

8. The Claimant asserts that Paragraph No. 8 of the Plaintiff's amended complaint comprises an historical narrative of the events leading up to the Government's seizure of the Defendant Property to which the Claimant was/is not privy. Therefore, the Claimant lacks sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph No. 8 and, on that basis, the Claimant denies them.

1 9. The Claimant asserts that Paragraph No. 9 of the Plaintiff's amended complaint
2 comprises an historical narrative of the events leading up to the Government's seizure of the
3 Defendant Property to which the Claimant was/is not privy. Therefore, the Claimant lacks
4 sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph No.
5 9 and, on that basis, the Claimant denies them.

6 10. The Claimant asserts that Paragraph No. 10 of the Plaintiff's amended complaint
7 comprises an historical narrative of the events leading up to the Government's seizure of the
8 Defendant Property to which the Claimant was/is not privy. Therefore, the Claimant lacks
9 sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph No.
10 10 and, on that basis, the Claimant denies them.

11 11. The Claimant asserts that Paragraph No. 11 of the Plaintiff's amended complaint
12 comprise an historical narrative of the events leading up to the Government's seizure of the
13 Defendant Property to which the Claimant was/is not privy. Therefore, the Claimant lacks
14 sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph No. 11 and on
15 that basis, the Claimant denies them.

16 12. The Claimant asserts that Paragraph No. 12 of the Plaintiff's amended complaint
17 comprise an historical narrative of the events leading up to the Government's seizure of the
18 Defendant Property to which the Claimant was/is not privy. Therefore, the Claimant lacks
19 sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph No.
20 12 and, on that basis, the Claimant denies them.

21 13. The Claimant asserts that Paragraph No. 13 of the Plaintiff's amended complaint
22 comprises an historical narrative of the events leading up to the Government's seizure of the
23 Defendant Property to which the Claimant was/is not privy. Therefore, the Claimant lacks
24 sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph No.
25 13 and, on that basis, the Claimant denies them.

26 14. The Claimant asserts that Paragraph No. 14 of the Plaintiff's amended complaint
27 comprises an historical narrative of the events leading up to the Government's seizure of the
28 Defendant Property to which the Claimant was/is not privy. Therefore, the Claimant lacks

1 sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph No.
2 14 and, on that basis, the Claimant denies them.

3 15. The Claimant asserts that Paragraph No. 15 of the Plaintiff's amended complaint
4 comprises an historical narrative of the events leading up to the Government's seizure of the
5 Defendant Property to which the Claimant was/is not privy. Therefore, the Claimant lacks
6 sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph No.
7 15 and, on that basis, the Claimant denies them.

8 16. The Claimant asserts that Paragraph No. 16 of the Plaintiff's amended complaint
9 comprises an historical narrative of the events leading up to the Government's seizure of the
10 Defendant Property to which the Claimant was/is not privy. Therefore, the Claimant lacks
11 sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph No.
12 16 and, on that basis, the Claimant denies them.

13 17. The Claimant asserts that Paragraph No. 17 of the Plaintiff's amended complaint
14 comprises an historical narrative of the events leading up to the Government's seizure of the
15 Defendant Property to which the Claimant was/is not privy. Therefore, the Claimant lacks
16 sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph No.
17 17 and, on that basis, the Claimant denies them.

18 18. The Claimant asserts that Paragraph No. 18 of the Plaintiff's amended complaint
19 comprises an historical narrative of the events leading up to the Government's seizure of the
20 Defendant Property to which the Claimant was/is not privy. Therefore, the Claimant lacks
21 sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph No.
22 18 and, on that basis, the Claimant denies them.

23 19. The Claimant asserts that Paragraph No. 19 of the Plaintiff's amended complaint
24 comprises an historical narrative of the events leading up to the Government's seizure of the
25 Defendant Property to which the Claimant was/is not privy. Therefore, the Claimant lacks
26 sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph No.
27 19 and, on that basis, the Claimant denies them.
28

1 20. The Claimant asserts that Paragraph No. 20 of the Plaintiff's amended complaint
2 comprises an historical narrative of the events leading up to the Government's seizure of the
3 Defendant Property to which the Claimant was/is not privy. Therefore, the Claimant lacks
4 sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph No.
5 20 and, on that basis, the Claimant denies them.

6 21. The Claimant asserts that Paragraph No. 21 of the Plaintiff's amended complaint
7 comprises an historical narrative of the events leading up to the Government's seizure of the
8 Defendant Property to which the Claimant was/is not privy. Therefore, the Claimant lacks
9 sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph No.
10 21 and, on that basis, the Claimant denies them.

11 22. The Claimant asserts that Paragraph No. 22 of the Plaintiff's amended complaint
12 comprises an historical narrative of the events leading up to the Government's seizure of the
13 Defendant Property to which the Claimant was/is not privy. Therefore, the Claimant lacks
14 sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph No.
15 22 and, on that basis, the Claimant denies them.

16 23. The Claimant asserts that Paragraph No. 23 of the Plaintiff's amended complaint
17 comprises an historical narrative of the events leading up to the Government's seizure of the
18 Defendant Property to which the Claimant was/is not privy. Therefore, the Claimant lacks
19 sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph No.
20 23 and, on that basis, the Claimant denies them. By way of further answer the Claimant asserts
21 that Individual X could not consent to the transfer/forfeiture of the Defendant Property to the
22 benefit of the United States because he had no property interests and/or rights in the Defendant
23 Property at the time that he executed the consent agreement.

24 24. The Claimant asserts that Paragraph No. 24 of the Plaintiff's amended complaint
25 comprises an historical narrative of the events leading up to the Government's seizure of the
26 Defendant Property to which the Claimant was/is not privy. Therefore, the Claimant lacks
27 sufficient information or knowledge to admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph No.
28 24 and on that basis, the Claimant denies them.

VIOLATION

a. Each of the unnumbered paragraphs of the Plaintiff's amended complaint under the "Violation" heading identify the various federal criminal statutes that implicate the Defendant Property as criminally-derived and/or criminally-involved assets subject to seizure and forfeiture. Therefore, no response is required.

b. In the penultimate, unnumbered paragraph of the amended complaint, the Plaintiff alleges that the Defendant Property is subject to forfeiture pursuant to: 18 U.S.C. § 981 (a)(1)(A) and (C) and § 981(b); 21 U.S.C. § 881 (a)(6); 18 U.S.C. § 1030; and 18 U.S.C. § 371. The Claimant fully and categorically denies that the assets comprising the Defendant Property are subject to forfeiture because the Claimant holds judicially-declared superior property interests in those assets, *en toto*, based on, among other things, the Claimant's' victim status and the Claimants' bona fide and pre-existing property interests in the Defendant Property.

c. The Claimant fully and categorically denies any and all allegations contained in the Plaintiff's amended complaint not specifically admitted above.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The Plaintiff's amended complaint fails to state a claim from which relief can be granted.

SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The Plaintiff lacks standing to participate in this lawsuit.

THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Any judgment imposed by this Court that contravenes or extinguishes the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The Claimant is an innocent owner who did not know, or have reason to know, that the Defendant Property was proceeds of, or involved in, criminal activity.

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FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The Claimant was not involved in any way in criminal behavior as relates to the circumstances described in the Plaintiff's amended complaint.

SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The Claimant acted in good faith at all times relevant to matters described in the amended complaint.

SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The Plaintiff is estopped from pursuing this civil forfeiture because it has failed to conduct an adequate investigation.

CLAIMANTS' DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

The Claimant demands a trial by jury of all triable issues.

Dated: April 5, 2021

FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP

By: /s/ Jaemin Chang

JAEMIN CHANG

JEFF NICHOLAS (Pro Hac Vice To Be Filed)

Dated: April 5, 2021

THE LAW OFFICES OF GUY A. LEWIS

By: /s/ Guy A. Lewis

GUY A. LEWIS

(Pro Hac Vice To Be Filed)

VERIFICATION

I, the undersigned, certify and declare that I have read the foregoing Verified Answer and know its contents. The matters stated in the foregoing document are true of my own knowledge and belief except as to those matters explicitly stated on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a false statement or claim may subject a person to prosecution.

Dated: April 5, 2021

BATTLE BORN INVESTMENTS COMPANY, LLC

By: _____

Jay Bloom, Manager
SJC VENTURES HOLDING LLC